

PROSPECTUS
OF THE
ROYAL INSTITUTION
OF
GREAT BRITAIN,
INCORPORATED BY CHARTER
MDCCC.
PATRON,
THE KING.

WITH
A COPY OF THE CHARTER,
AND A LIST OF THE SUBSCRIBERS.

"Est illa Platonis vera Vox, omnem Doctrinam harum ingenuarum et
"humanarum Artium uno quodam SOCIETATIS Vinculo contineri.
"Ubi enim perspecta Vis est Rationis ejus, quâ Causæ Rerum atque
"Exitus cognoscuntur, mirus quidam omnium Consensus Doctrinarum
"Concentusque reperitur."—CICERO de Oratore, iii. 6.

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PROSPECTUS
OF THE
ROYAL INSTITUTION
OF GREAT BRITAIN

1992

2000

ROYAL INSTITUTION

OF

GREAT BRITAIN,

**FOR DIFFUSING THE KNOWLEDGE, AND FACILITATING
THE GENERAL INTRODUCTION OF**

USEFUL MECHANICAL INVENTIONS AND

IMPROVEMENTS;

AND FOR TEACHING, BY

Courses of Philosophical Lectures and Experiments,

THE

APPLICATION OF SCIENCE

TO THE

COMMON PURPOSES OF LIFE.

PATRON,
THE KING.

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PROSPECTUS
OF THE
ROYAL INSTITUTION
OF
GREAT BRITAIN.*

It is an undoubted truth, that the successive improvements in the condition of man, from a state of ignorance and barbarism to that of the highest cultivation and refinement, are usually effected by the aid of machinery in procuring the necessaries, the comforts,

* After mature deliberation upon all the terms in the European languages, which have been used to distinguish public bodies; such as schools, academies, colleges, universities, societies, corporations, &c. it was found, that every one is either appropriated to well known establishments, or less adapted to the views of the present society than the word INSTITUTION, already well known for near a century in the famous "*Instituto*" of Bologna.

and the elegances of life; and that the pre-eminence of any people in civilization, is, and ought ever to be estimated by the state of industry and mechanical improvement among them.

In proof of this great and striking truth, no other argument requires to be offered, than an immediate reference to the experience of all ages and places. The various nations of the earth, the provinces of each nation, the towns, and even the villages of the same province, differ from each other in their accommodations, and are in every respect more flourishing and populous, the greater their activity in establishing new channels of industry. Successful exertions give courage to the spirit of invention; the sciences flourish; and as the moral and physical powers of man increase, new methods of improvement become practicable, which in an earlier state of society, would have appeared altogether visionary.

Who among the Ancients would have listened to the extraordinary scheme of writing books with such rapidity, that one man by this new art should perform the work of twenty thousand amanuenses?—What philosopher would have given credit to the daring project of navigating the widest oceans? or imagined the astonishing effects of gunpowder?—or even suspected the useful and extended powers of the steam engine?—discoveries which have changed the course of human affairs, and of which the future effects can scarcely yet be conjectured! The men of those early ages, in the confidence of their own wisdom, might have derided them as impossible, or rejected them as unnecessary. But to those who enjoy the full effect of these and numerous other instances of successful invention, it surely becomes a duty to reason upon different principles, and to exert all means in their power to give effect to the progress of improvement. To point out the

causes which impede this progress, and to invite the public to join in effectually removing them, is the purpose of the present address.

The slowness with which improvements of every kind make their way into common use, and especially such improvements as are most calculated to be of general utility, is very remarkable ; and forms a striking contrast to the extreme avidity with which those unmeaning changes are adopted, which folly and caprice are continually bringing forth and sending into the world under the auspices of fashion. On the first view of the subject it appears very extraordinary, that any person should neglect, or refuse to avail himself of a proposed invention or contrivance, which is evidently calculated to facilitate his labour, and increase his comforts. But when we reflect on the power of habit, and consider how difficult it is for a person even to

perceive the imperfections of instruments to which he has been accustomed from his early youth, our surprise will be very much diminished.

Many other circumstances are unfavourable to the introduction of improvements. The very proposal of any thing new carries with it something offensive ;—something that seems to imply superiority ; and even that kind of superiority precisely, to which mankind are least disposed to submit. There are few who do not feel ashamed, and mortified, at being obliged to learn any thing new, after they have for a long time been considered, and been accustomed to consider themselves, as proficient in the business in which they are engaged. Their awkwardness in their new apprenticeship, more especially when they are obliged to work with tools with which they are not acquainted, tends much to increase their dislike to the teacher, and his doctrines.

To these obstacles to the introduction of new improvements, we may add the innumerable mistakes, voluntary and involuntary, committed by workmen who are employed in any business which is new to them, and which perhaps they neither understand nor approve; and, what is still more to be feared, those alterations which workmen in general, and more especially those who pride themselves on their ingenuity, have an irresistible propensity to make when they are employed in executing any thing that is new. How many useful inventions have been brought into disrepute by alterations intended and announced as improvements! It must be allowed also, that some cause for suspicion naturally arises, to manufacturers, and to the world at large, from frequent instances of pretended inventions, destitute of all real value:

They who propose improvements are commonly suspected of being influenced by in-

terested motives; and this suspicion, which is often but too well founded, occasions little attention to be paid to such proposals, by the public.

Not only suspicion, but jealousy and envy, have too often their share in obstructing the progress of improvement, and in preventing the adoption of plans calculated to promote the public good.

The most meritorious exertions in favour of the public prosperity are often viewed with suspicion; and the fair fame that is derived from those exertions, with jealousy and envy: and many, who have too much discernment not to perceive the merit of an undertaking evidently useful, and too much regard for their reputation not to appear to approve of it, are yet very far from wishing it success.

This melancholy truth is but too well

known, and has more effect in deterring sensible and well disposed persons from offering to the public their plans for useful improvements, than all the trouble and difficulty that would attend the execution of them.

These are the chief causes which prevent the advancement and reception of valuable inventions already made ; and they operate also against the production of such as might be made by ingenious men, if they were not discouraged by such impediments. But there is another serious obstacle, which is produced even by the flourishing condition of society, resulting from those very improvements. From the subdivision of labour which naturally takes place where active industry and the security of property are established, it happens that almost every man becomes confined to some appropriate occupation ; seldom regarding, or even knowing what may be the processes or operations to which the material of his trade may be subjected,

before or after it passes through his hands : still less does he know what is performed in other branches of trade and manufacture. The acquisition of wealth almost totally engages the attention of individuals thus employed. Hence those vain pretensions to superior excellence, that scorn of improvement, because improvement supposes previous imperfection, and those earnest endeavours at secrecy and monopoly ; in addition to which there is a natural fear of risque, which deters men from entering upon new undertakings, of which they are not qualified to form a judgment. It cannot, therefore, be wondered, that the generality of manufacturers should possess neither the knowledge, the inclination, nor the spirit to make improvements.

Among the various operators who take their stations in the great laboratory of civil society, there are others who cannot be classed either with manufacturers or mer-

chants, though they perform a great and very essential part of the general work. These men are Philosophers, who have devoted themselves to the labour of observing, comparing, analysing, inventing. The movements of the universe, the relations and habitudes of men and of things, causes and effects, motives and consequences, are the powers on which they meditate for the developement of truth, by those remote analogies which escape the vulgar mind. It is the business of these philosophers to examine every operation of nature or of art, and to establish general theories for the direction and conducting of future processes. Invention seems to be peculiarly the province of the man of science ; his ardour in the pursuit of truth is unremitted ; discovery is his harvest ; utility his reward. Yet it may be demanded whether his moral and intellectual habits are precisely such as may be calculated to produce useful practical improvements. Detached, as he usually is, from the ordinary

pursuits of life, little if at all accustomed to contemplate the scheme of profit and loss,—will he descend from the sublime general theories of science, and enter into the detail of weight, measure, price, quality, or the individual properties of the materials, which must be precisely known before a chance of success can be gained? Does he know them? will he become an operative artist? or can he make advances of this nature, if he do not? Are his motives and his powers equal to this task? Surely they are not.—The practical knowledge, the stimulus of interest, and the capital of the manufacturer, are here wanting; while the manufacturer on his part, is equally in want of the general information, and accurate reasoning of the man of science.

There appear to be but three direct methods of diminishing or removing these difficulties:

1. To give premiums or prizes to the inventors.
2. To grant temporary monopolies.
- And, 3. To direct the public attention to the

arts, by an institution for diffusing the knowledge and facilitating the general introduction of useful mechanical inventions and improvements. The first already constitutes the object of a most respectable Society : * the second is already provided for by the law of the land ; and the third is now offered to the consideration of the public.

The two chief purposes of the ROYAL INSTITUTION, being the speedy and general diffusion of the knowledge of all new and useful improvements, in whatever quarter of the world they may originate ; and teaching the application of scientific discoveries, to the improvement of arts and manufactures in this country, and to the increase of domestic comfort and convenience ; these objects will constantly be had in view, not only in the arrangement and execution of the plan, but also in the future management of the institution.

* The Society for the Encouragement of Arts, Manufactures, and Commerce, instituted 1753.

In the execution of the plan, the Managers have purchased, with the approbation of the Proprietors, a very spacious and commodious house in Albemarle-street, where convenient and airy rooms will be prepared for the reception and public exhibition of all such new mechanical inventions and improvements, as shall be thought worthy of the public notice ; and, more especially, of all such contrivances as tend to increase the conveniences and comforts of life, to promote domestic economy, to improve taste, or to advance useful industry.

The completest working models or constructions of the full size will be provided and exhibited in different parts of this public repository, of all such new mechanical inventions as are applicable to the common purposes of life.

Every consideration unites in shewing how highly important it must be to the progress

of real improvements, to have some general collection of useful mechanical contrivances, constructed on the most approved principles, and kept constantly in actual use, to which application can be made as to a standard ; in order to determine whether the failure of experiments be owing to errors in principle, or to the mistakes of workmen employed in the construction, or to those of the servants intrusted with the management of the machinery.

How useful also would such a repository be for furnishing models, and for giving instruction to artificers who may be employed in imitating them ! Workmen must see what they are to imitate—bare description will not suffice to give them ideas so precise as to prevent error in the execution of the work.

But this is also the case with mankind in general, and even with the best informed ; for, how great is that effort of the imagi-

nation, which is necessary to form an adequate idea of what we have not seen!—Descriptions, though they be illustrated by the best drawings, can give but very imperfect ideas of things: the impressions they leave are faint and transitory, and seldom excite that degree of ardour which ought to accompany the pursuit of interesting improvements. Something visible, and tangible, is necessary to fix the attention and determine the choice.

This tacit recommendation from a respectable Public Institution, where things judged worthy of public notice will be exposed to view, must evidently tend to produce the happiest effects. The manufacturer, as well as the consumer, will become instructed as to the real value of new objects presented to view. The Managers of such an Institution will be above all suspicion of interested motives; their situation in life places them out of the reach of the mean

jealousy of interested competition ; and if, contrary to all expectation, the effects of prejudice should, in some respect or other, be directed against their laudable exertions, a firm perseverance in their duties must at length remove that ignorance which alone can give them birth.

An Institution of this nature, is peculiarly calculated to produce that unity of pursuit between manufacturers and men of science, which is absolutely necessary for attaining perfection in the theory, as well as in the practice of all the arts of civilized life. The philosopher will behold and contemplate the prodigious number of truly scientific experiments, which are hourly performed in the workshops of ignorant men ; and the artist, by being taught to seize the general outline and connexion of the manual operations by which he obtains his bread, may learn to simplify his often tedious processes, and give increased value to the product of his labours.

The collection and exhibition of models and machines, will be rendered more effectual in their consequences, by detailed accounts or descriptions, illustrated by correct drawings. Arrangements will be made, and correspondences established for obtaining the earliest and best information respecting every valuable improvement which may be made either at home or in foreign countries. Visitations of manufactories, careful examinations of the processes of the arts, regular investigations, with accurate reports and registers of those operations and proceedings which may constitute the objects of inquiry or information, will, no doubt, afford very interesting results. To this growing mass of instruction, the managers will add a library of all the best treatises on the subjects for which this Institution is established, as well as those publications of academies, and journals of repute, which exhibit the transactions of ingenious men in every part of the world.

In order to carry into effect the second object of the Institution, namely, that of *teaching the application of science to the useful purposes of life*, a lecture-room will be fitted up for philosophical lectures and experiments, and a complete laboratory and philosophical apparatus, with the necessary instruments for making chemical and philosophical experiments: and men of the first eminence in science will be engaged to officiate in this essential department.

It may appear necessary to give some statement or enumeration of the several views to which the attention and the powers of this Institution will be directed. Such an enumeration, if made with only a small degree of the precision to which it is entitled, would grasp at once the whole extent and disposition of national industry. That man must labour for his food, and defend himself from the inclemencies of the seasons, the attacks of ferocious animals, and the still

more pernicious operations and influence of vice in his fellow-creatures, are the inevitable decrees of Providence ! he must be nourished ;—he must be clothed ;—houses, towns, fortresses, roads, canals, carriages, ships, instruments of manufacture, weapons of offence and defence, the subdivision of labour, commercial intercourse, and political regulation—all these must be established. This rapid association of words and ideas, every one of which includes a science, for the supply and regulation of things in the highest degree important to man, may serve, in the present short outline, to lead the mind to some of those objects which, of necessity, must constitute the pursuits of an institution established for purposes so great and truly dignified.

But though the extent and importance of the various departments from which the Institution may derive the means of diffusing the knowledge of valuable improvements, and teaching the application of science to the

advancement of manufactures, are too great to admit of any comprehensive enumeration; and though, from the intimate connection of all the several subjects of art, it is at present impossible to give an outline of that arrangement into which the communications of the several lecturers must ultimately be disposed;—it seems, nevertheless, expedient to state the leading topics; with a view to assist the meditations of those who may be disposed to enter more minutely into the plan of operations to be adopted by this Institution.

The machines and models will afford a perpetual source of instruction. The lectures will be more particularly useful to elucidate and apply those general principles which are only in part observable in particular structures. The first principles of mechanics will be exhibited, and explained in the simple engines called the mechanical powers; and to these will be referred the prodigious variety of

tools, implements, and engines in common use, the curiosity and value of which, as well as the improvements they are capable of receiving, are but too frequently overlooked. Under this head will come the practical operations of various arts, and the mutual connection between the theory of mechanics, and the experimental knowledge of the materials; requisites, which do not often accompany each other, though of the utmost necessity. Under the division of General Mechanics, will be shewn the advantages we derive from those happy expedients which abridge the labour of man in the culture of the ground, the preparation of food and clothing, by mills, looms, and other engines, and the improvements still possible in the wonderful arts of writing and printing; the effects of which have already carried the intellectual operations of society to a height they could by no other means have attained.

The comprehensive science of modern chemistry, will be taught and elucidated in the same simple and perspicuous manner. The processes of the laboratory will be employed to disengage and exhibit those substances which, with regard to the present extent of our knowledge, are considered as the elements of other bodies. Their compounds will be shewn, and the history of their connection with the structure of the earth, and their application to useful purposes, will be explained. This elementary knowledge, so desirable, and even indispensable, to the intelligent manufacturer, will then be connected with the great operations of the arts and trade. The nature of soils, the effects of tillage, of manure, and of the air and water of the atmosphere, which are essential to the product of every article of consumption, will also present themselves as subjects of research and elucidation. From the first produce, or raw materials, we shall be led to the various processes they are made

to undergo. The making of bread, the brewing of beer, wine, and other fermented liquors ; the distillation of ardent spirit ; the preservation of animal and vegetable foods ; the extraction of starch, farina, sugar, and other valuable articles ; the making of butter and cheese, and numerous other arts, afford proper subjects for investigation, and are, no doubt, susceptible of very beneficial improvements.

Among the more elaborate arts, may be classed those of tanning, dying, callicoprining, bleaching, the fabrication of pigments, crayons, inks, varnishes, and the like ; in many of which, very rapid advances have been lately made.

The mineral products afford materials for arts, of the highest importance to human society. How much do our comforts, and how greatly does the extent of our powers in mechanical operations and commercial inter-

course, depend upon the tenacity and hardness of steel, and its singular property of magnetism ! The smelting of metallic ores, the casting and compounding of metals, the preparation of acids, and other useful salts ; the indispensable articles of mortar, cements, bricks, pottery, glass, and enamel, will shew to what valuable purposes the crude minerals have been applied ; and will bring to recollection, no inconsiderable number of beautiful inventions of our own time and country.

From the vast field of individual operations, or separate manufactories, the inquirer will be led to other works of more general consideration, which include not only the objects of mechanics and chemistry strictly taken, but likewise those of commercial operation, and political economy. Under this class of objects will be found, the structure of roads, and form of vehicles ; the establishment of canals ; the improvement of rivers, harbours, and coasts ; the art of war

—its engines, materials, and edifices; and in particular, that first object of the civil and military engineer, the estimate of natural powers, or first movers, namely, animal strength, wind, water, steam, and other elastic and explosive substances. The methods of determining the magnitude of these forces will be shewn, with their application to mills and every other engine. The exhibition of working models, will particularly display the powers of hydraulic machines, and that strikingly useful apparatus, the steam-engine.

But above all, we shall find our contemplations urged to the phenomena of light and heat; those great powers which give life and energy to the universe!—powers which, by the wonderful process of combustion, are placed under the command of human beings, who, without their assistance, would not only be incapable of operating on the materials around them, but could scarcely support

their own existence. If we could for a moment suppose the privation of fire and artificial light, it would follow as an immediate inference, that the greatest part of the globe would cease to be the habitation of man. Whether he could ensnare or overtake those animals, upon whose unprepared remains he would then be compelled to feed ;—whether he might store the fruits of the earth for his winter supply ;—what might be the physical and moral consequences of a state of such desolation, may, perhaps, be conjectured, but no estimate can shew its dreadful magnitude ! But if it should be proved, as in fact it may, that in the applications of fire, the management of heat, the production of light, the salutary effects of clothing, the ventilation of our dwellings, the preparation of our food, and in every other art and manufacture ;—we do not, even now, derive half the advantage from combustion, which might be obtained by a judicious application of the principles already known ; it will readily be

admitted, that these subjects must constitute a very principal part of the instructions to be conveyed in the Public Lectures of the ROYAL INSTITUTION.

Albemarle-street,

21st Jan. 1800.

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a very principal part of the inquiries to
be conducted in the field. The list of the
ROYAL INSTITUTE

the following subjects are the most
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APPENDIX.

THE Bye-laws and Regulations of the ROYAL INSTITUTION, are to be framed, by a general Committee of Managers and Visitors, agreeably to the Provisions of the Charter.—In the mean while, it is thought advisable to select the following heads of information for the public.

The expence of forming this Institution has hitherto been defrayed by the Proprietors, and the Subscribers who have paid in their subscriptions; and from this fund, the extensive premises in Albemarle-street have been purchased by the Managers, with the approbation of the Proprietors, for the use of the Institution.

The funds of the Institution are to arise,
1. From the sum of Fifty Guineas, paid by each hereditary Subscriber. 2. From the sum of Ten Guineas paid by each Subscriber for life. 3. From the sum of Two Guineas paid by each annual Subscriber. 4. From the particular donations and legacies which may be made, for the laudable purpose of extending and improving so interesting and useful an Institution.

It will be a consideration also, whether an additional income may not be derived from such Non-Subscribers as may wish to attend the Philosophical Lectures, and who are recommended for that purpose by subscribers.

A Proprietor, or Subscriber of Fifty Guineas, is an Hereditary Governor of the Institution, and has a perpetual *transferable* share in the house of the Institution, and in all the property belonging to it; is to have a voice

in the election of the Managers and Visitors of the Institution ; and is to have two *transferable* tickets of admission into the Establishment, and to all the Philosophical Lectures and Experiments.

A Subscriber for life, or Subscriber of Ten Guineas, is to have one ticket for life, (not transferable) of admission into the Establishment, and to all the Philosophical Lectures and Experiments.

An annual Subscriber, or Subscriber of Two Guineas per annum, is to have a ticket for one year, (not transferable) of admission into the Establishment, and to all the Philosophical Lectures and Experiments.

The three classes of Subscription, are alike open to Ladies and Gentlemen.

Of the privileges that are common to the Subscribers in general, are, 1. The privilege

to have copies or drawings (made at their own expence) of any of the models in the repository; and for which purpose, workshops will be prepared, and workmen provided under the direction of the Managers, for executing such work properly, and at reasonable prices: and that mistakes may be prevented, all such drawings and copies will be examined by persons duly qualified, and expressly appointed, and marked with the seal or stamp of the Institution. 2. But, in case of other tradesmen and artificers being employed in executing any work after the models lodged in the repository, they will, in that case, on the recommendation of a Subscriber of either of the three classes, be allowed free access to such models as often as shall be necessary: and any workman or artificer so recommended, who shall be willing to furnish to buyers any article exhibited in the repository, that is in his own line of business, will be allowed to place a specimen of such article of his manufacture in the

repository, with his name and place of abode attached to it, together with the price at which he can furnish it; such specimen having been examined, and approved, by the Managers.

The Management of the Institution is in a President, and nine Managers, chosen by, and from among the Proprietors of the Institution, three for three years, three for two years, and three for one year; capable however of being *re-elected*. The office of Manager to be executed without pay, emolument, or any species of pecuniary advantage whatever.

The Committee of Visitors, whose business is to assist in the framing the Bye-laws, to inspect the Institution annually in detail, and to examine and audit the accounts of the receipts and disbursements of the Institution, kept either by the Managers, or by their order, is composed also of nine persons chosen by and from the Proprietors of the Institution;

three for three years, three for two years, and three for one year; capable however of being *re-elected*. The office of Visitor to be executed without pay, emolument, or any species of pecuniary advantage whatever.

The offices of Treasurer, and Secretary, are likewise to be executed without pay, emolument, or any species of pecuniary advantage whatever.

The election of Managers and Visitors, is to take place annually on the 1st of May.

Sub-committees, in the different departments of science, are also to be appointed indiscriminately, from the three classes of subscribers, as occasion shall require.

That the Institution may open as speedily as possible, a temporary Lecture Room in the house of the Institution, in Albemarle-street, is fitting up, and the Professor of Natural

Philosophy and Chemistry has reason to believe, that early in the next month he shall be able to commence his first Lectures in the following order ;

1. A course of Experimental Philosophy, comprehending the principles of Astronomy, Electricity, Magnetism, Mechanics, Hydrostatics, Pneumatics, and Optics.

In this course, all abstract and mathematical reasoning will be as much as possible avoided, the most interesting and pleasing experiments introduced, and the whole calculated to afford instruction and amusement to those who have not had leisure or opportunity to investigate such subjects, and to refresh the memories of those who have.

This course will begin on Tuesday, the at two o'clock, and be continued every Tuesday at the same hour until it be completed.

2. A course of Chemistry, in which the principles of this science, and the discoveries that have been made in its various branches, will be illustrated by interesting experiments; and its application to the different arts and manufactures, as well as to the common purposes of life, be pointed out.

This course will commence on Thursday, the _____ at two o'clock, and be continued every Thursday, or twice a-week, if necessary to complete the course before the conclusion of the session.

Outlines of both these courses may be had of the Porter of the Institution.

3. A full and scientific course on Experimental Philosophy.

In this course, the propositions will first be demonstrated mathematically, then illustrated experimentally; and afterwards their

application to the mechanic arts, as well as the common purposes of life, pointed out, and illustrated by drawings and models of machinery; and, whenever it can be done, the different operations themselves will be performed.

This course will commence on Monday, the at eight o'clock in the evening, and be continued three times a-week, Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, at the same hour, till the conclusion of the session.

The most approved works in Science will, from time to time, be purchased, and the valuable presents of Books, Philosophical Instruments, &c. which have already been made to the Institution, afford a fair expectation that the *Library* (which will at all times be open to subscribers of every denomination), and its *Philosophical Apparatus*, will, in a short time, be highly respectable. The most esteemed scientific Journals, Transac-

tions, and other periodical publications of learned Societies, Institutions, and Academies, in every part of the world, will be regularly procured, and lodged in the library of the Institution, for the use of the Subscribers.

*The following is the CHARTER for INCORPORATING
the ROYAL INSTITUTION, of which THE
KING has been most graciously pleased to
become the PATRON.*

GEORGE the THIRD by the Grace of God,
King of Great Britain, France, and Ireland,
Defender of the Faith, &c. to all to whom these
présents shall come greeting. Whereas several
of our loving subjects are desirous of forming a
*Public Institution for diffusing the knowledge, and
facilitating the general introduction of useful mecha-
nical inventions and improvements; and for teaching
by courses of philosophical lectures and experiments,
the application of science to the purposes of life; and*
(having subscribed considerable sums of money
for that purpose) have humbly besought us to
grant unto them and such others as shall be
elected, as hereinafter is mentioned, our Royal
Charter of Incorporation for the purposes afore-
said, know ye, that we being desirous to pro-
mote every useful improvement in arts and

manufactures for the increase of the industry and happiness of all our loving subjects, have of our special grace, certain knowledge, and mere motion, given and granted, and we do hereby give and grant, that our right trusty and right well beloved cousins *George, Earl of Winchilsea and Nottingham*; *George, Earl of Morton, Knight of the most antient order of the Thistle*; *George, Earl of Egremont*; and *Frederick, Earl of Bessborough, of our Kingdom of Ireland*; our right trusty and well beloved counsellors *Thomas Pelham, and Sir Joseph Banks, Baronet, Knight of the most honourable order of the Bath*; our trusty and well beloved *Benjamin, Count of Rumford, of the holy Roman Empire*; *Sir John Cox Hoppisley, Baronet*; *Richard Clarke, Esq. Chamberlain of our City of London*; and *Richard Joseph Sulivan, Esq.* and such others as shall be from time to time elected in manner hereafter directed, they, and their successors be and shall for ever hereafter be, by virtue of these presents, one body politic, by the name of the Proprietors of "*THE ROYAL INSTITUTION OF GREAT BRITAIN,*" and them and their successors for the purposes aforesaid, we do hereby constitute and declare to be one body politic and corporate, and by the same name to have perpetual succession, and for

ever hereafter to be persons able and capable in the law, and have power to purchase, receive, and possess any goods and chattels whatsoever, and (notwithstanding the statute of mortmain) to purchase, hold, and enjoy to them and their successors, any lands, tenements and hereditaments whatsoever, not exceeding at the time or times of purchasing such lands, tenements, and hereditaments respectively, the yearly value at a rack rent of *two thousand pounds* in the whole, without incurring the penalties or forfeitures of the statutes of mortmain, or any of them. And by the name aforesaid, to sue and be sued, plead and be impleaded, answer and be answered unto, defend and be defended, in all courts and pleas whatsoever of us, our heirs and successors, in all actions, suits, causes, and things whatsoever; and to act and do in all things relating to the said corporation, in as ample manner and form as any other our liege subjects, being persons able and capable in the law, or any other body politic or corporate in our kingdom of Great Britain may or can act or do. And also to have and use a common seal, and the same to change and alter from time to time as they shall think fit. And we do hereby declare and grant, that the said

Institution shall be under the direction and conduct of a Committee of nine Managers, and one Treasurer, and one Secretary, to be hereafter elected by and from among the Proprietors of the Institution. And that the said *Frederick, Earl of Bessborough*, *Benjamin, Count of Rumford*, and *Richard Clarke*, shall be Managers for three years, from the first day of May, one thousand seven hundred and ninety-nine, and until other persons shall be chosen in their respective rooms; and the said *George, Earl of Egremont*, *Sir Joseph Banks*, and *Richard Joseph Sullivan*, shall be Managers for two years, from the said first day of May, until other persons shall be chosen in their respective rooms; and that the said *Gorge, Earl of Morton*, *Thomas Pelham*, and *Sir John Cox Hippisley*, shall be Managers for one year, from the said first day of May, and until other persons shall be chosen in their respective rooms. And it is our further will and pleasure, that the several persons herein before named as Proprietors of the said Institution, and such other persons as shall from time to time be elected Proprietors in manner herein after directed, shall and may elect and choose annually out of their own body a President; and that on his being so elected and chosen, such

President shall become an ex-official Manager of the said Institution. And that such President for the time being, shall have full power from and among the Managers of the said Institution for the time being, to elect, and choose as many Vice Presidents, as to him shall seem meet and needful for the regular holding of the several meetings. And for the purpose of forwarding the general views of the said Institution, that the said *George, Earl of Winchilsea and Nottingham*, shall be the first President; and the said *George, Earl of Morton, George, Earl of Egremont*, and *Sir Joseph Banks*, shall be the first Vice Presidents; and that our trusty and well beloved *Thomas Bernard, Esq.* shall be the first Treasurer; and that *Samuel Glasse, Doctor in Divinity*, shall be the first Secretary for one year, from the said first day of May, and until other persons shall be chosen in their respective rooms. And we do hereby further declare and grant, that for the purposes of inspecting and examining the Institution, and the receipts and payments thereof, and reporting thereon, and also of consenting to such byelaws as are hereinafter mentioned, there shall be a Committee of nine Visitors, to be hereafter elected from among the Proprietors of the Institution;

and that our right trusty and right entirely beloved cousin *Francis, Duke of Bridgewater*, the right reverend father in God *Shute, Bishop of Durham*, and our trusty and well beloved *Thomas Bernard, Esq.* shall be Visitors for three years, from the said first day of May, one thousand seven hundred and ninety-nine, and till other persons shall be chosen in their respective rooms. And that our right trusty and well beloved cousin *Henry, Viscount Palmers-town, of our kingdom of Ireland*, and our right trusty and well beloved *John, Lord Teignmouth*, of our said kingdom, and our trusty and well beloved *Rowland Burdon, Esq.* shall be Visitors for two years, from the said first day of May, and till other persons shall be chosen in their respective rooms. And that our right trusty and right well beloved cousin and counsellor *George John, Earl Spencer, Knight elect of the most noble order of the Garter*, our right trusty and well beloved *James, Lord Somerville*, and our trusty and well beloved *Samuel Thornton, Esq.* shall be Visitors for one year, from the said first day of May, and till other persons shall be chosen in their respective rooms. And we hereby further declare and grant that the said Managers, or any five or more of them, (with the consent of the

said Visitors, or of any five or more of them, in writing under their hands) shall and may, according to the best of their judgment and discretion, make and establish such bye-laws as they shall deem to be useful and necessary for the regulation of the said Institution, and of the estates, goods, and business thereof, and for fixing and determining the manner as well of electing Proprietors, and Honorary Members of the said Institution, and likewise the Managers and Visitors of the said Institution in future, as also of electing, appointing, and removing such officers, attendants, and servants as shall be deemed necessary or useful for the said Institution, and with such salaries as shall be a reasonable compensation for their duty and attendance; and such bye-laws, from time to time, to vary, alter, or revoke, and to make such new and other bye-laws as they shall think most useful and expedient, so that the same be not repugnant to these presents, or to the laws and statutes of this our realm. Provided nevertheless, and our will is, that from and after the twenty-fifth day of March, one thousand eight hundred, no bye-law shall be made, altered, or repealed, except by the authority of six or more of the Managers, with the

consent of six or more of the Visitors, for the time being, in writing under their respective hands, and confirmed by the Proprietors at large at one of their general meetings. And we do authorize and empower the said Proprietors, as soon as conveniently may be, after every annual election to be made by the Proprietors of three Managers in the room of those whose time of serving shall be expired, to proceed to election from among themselves of a President, a Treasurer, and Secretary for the ensuing year, subject to such bye-laws respecting the manner and time of such election, as shall be made and established as aforesaid; and also, (but subject to such bye-laws as aforesaid) to proceed to the election of a President, Treasurer, or Secretary, upon any vacancy that may happen by the death or resignation of the President, Treasurer, or Secretary. Provided that it shall be lawful (in case it shall be found expedient) by such bye-laws as aforesaid, to increase the number of Managers and Visitors of the said Institution, so nevertheless as that one-third part of the Managers, and one-third part of the Visitors be annually elected by the said Proprietors. And our further will and pleasure is, that the Managers for the time being

of the said Corporation, shall cause fair and just accounts in writing to be kept of all receipts, and payments, and doings by them, their officers, and agents respectively, which shall be liable to the view and inspection of the said Committee of Visitors, and which accounts shall, on the twenty-fifth day of March, in every year, or within thirty days after, be examined, audited, and reported upon by the said Visitors, or the major part of them. And it is our further will and pleasure, at the humble suit and petition of our said loving subjects, that no Manager of the said Institution shall vote in any thing in which he has any immediate concern or interest; and that no person who is a Proprietor of the said Institution shall be capable of any place, office, or appointment under the said Institution, to which any salary, profit, or emolument is or shall be annexed. And that no such Proprietor shall be liable to any further call or demand in respect of the transactions or engagements of the said Corporation, after he shall have paid and advanced the whole of his original subscription as the qualification of a Proprietor. And we do further authorize and empower the said Committee of Managers, on such day as shall be fixed

upon for their monthly meeting, (but subject nevertheless to such bye-laws as aforesaid, and also to such orders as the said Managers may make for the regulation of their own proceedings, and which we do hereby authorize them to make) from time to time to elect, and choose by ballot, such persons to be Proprietors of the Institution, as shall have been nominated by the executors or administrators of any deceased Proprietor, as hereinafter is mentioned, or shall have respectively paid, or secured to be paid to the funds of the Institution, in case of their election, the sum of Fifty Guineas, or such greater sum as shall at the time by the bye-laws of the Institution be fixed as the qualification of a Proprietor. And it is our further will and pleasure, that in case any Proprietor of the said Institution shall be desirous of parting with his right and interest in the property of the said Institution, and shall in writing under his hand notify the same unto the Managers of the Institution, then, and in such case, it shall be lawful for the said Managers, on such day as shall be fixed upon for their monthly meeting (but subject nevertheless to such bye-laws and orders as aforesaid), from time to time, by ballot, to elect and choose in the room of such

Proprietor, such proper person as shall have been nominated by such Proprietor, or shall have paid to the said funds of the said Institution, to be paid over to such Proprietor, the sum of Fifty Guineas, or such greater sum as shall at the time by the bye-laws of the Institution be fixed as the qualification of a Proprietor; and then, and in such case, the right and interest of such Proprietor so giving notice, shall cease and determine as to him and her, and shall from thenceforth become vested in such person as shall have been so elected in his or her room as aforesaid. And it is our further will and pleasure, that, in case of the death of any Proprietor, it shall be lawful for his or her executors or administrators, by writing under the hands of such executors or administrators, to nominate a person to be admitted or balloted for as a Proprietor, in the right of the Proprietor so dying; and in case such person so to be nominated shall be a lawfully born child of such deceased Proprietor, then such person shall be admitted as a Proprietor of the said Institution, and be entitled to all the rights and privileges of the original Proprietor thereof: but in case such person shall be other than a lawfully born child of such deceased Proprietor, then the said Mana-

gers shall proceed to determine by ballot whether such person shall be elected a Proprietor; and in case such person shall not thereupon be elected and admitted a Proprietor by the said Committee of Managers, then there shall be paid to the executors or administrators of such deceased Proprietor, by and out of the funds of the Institution, and in full of such Proprietor's right and interest, the sum of Fifty Guineas, or such greater sum as by such bye-laws as aforesaid shall be then fixed as the qualification of a Proprietor. And we do hereby further authorize and empower the said Committee of Managers to elect and appoint such and so many Honorary Members of the said Institution as to them shall seem meet, and with such privileges, and subject to such restrictions and regulations, as by such bye-laws as aforesaid shall be fixed and established. And we do hereby further grant, that it shall and may be lawful for any person or persons to give, devise, grant, bargain, sell, assign, transfer, demise, and convey any lands, tenements, and hereditaments whatsoever, not exceeding the aforesaid value of two thousand pounds a year in the whole, to or for the use and

benefit of the Proprietors of the said Institution, and their successors, without license of alienation in mortmain. And also that it shall and may be lawful for the Managers of the said Institution, or the major part of them, with the consent of the Visitors of the said Institution, or any five of them, in writing under their hands (but subject to any restrictions or regulations to be contained in such bye-laws as aforesaid) for a valuable consideration, to sell, grant, demise, exchange, and dispose of any lands, tenements, and hereditaments, belonging to the said Corporation. And moreover we will, and hereby for us, our heirs and successors, ordain, constitute and appoint, that if any abuse or difference shall hereafter happen in or concerning the government or affairs of the said Institution, or the management or conduct thereof; then, and so often we, for ourselves, our heirs and successors, authorize, constitute, and appoint the Lord High Chancellor of Great Britain, or Keeper of the Great Seal of Great Britain for the time being, the Lord High Treasurer, or in case of the vacancy of that office, the Chancellor of our Exchequer for the time being; the Lord President of our Privy Council for the

time being; the Keeper of our Privy Seal, and our principal Secretaries of State for the time being; or any three or more of them, to reform every such abuse, and to settle and adjust every such difference. In witness whereof we have caused these our Letters to be made Patent.

Witness Ourselves at Westminster, the thirteenth day of January, in the fortieth year of our reign.

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